

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 131300Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4318

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 3503

DEPARTMENTPASS SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASST SECY SISCO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI SUEZ TALKS

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON ASHRAF GHORBAL TODAY, I ASKED FOR ANY LATE INFORMATION ON HOW EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI TALKS ON IMPLEMENTING SIX POINT AGREEMENT WERE GOING. GHORBAL CHARGED ISRAELIS ARE "DILLY DALLYING" BUT DID NOT HAVE DETAILS. HE THEN CALLED CHIEF OF STAFF SAAD EDDIN SHAZLI AND PASSED ON FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT.

2. ISRAELI CHECKPOINT AT KILOMETER 101 HAD ALLOWED ONLY EIGHT TRUCKS TO PASS THROUGH YESTERDAY AND FOUR THE DAY BEFORE, CLAIMING "LOGISTIC DIFFICULTIES" ON THE WEST BANK OF THE CANAL WITH RESPECT TO UNLOADING. SHAZLI CLAIMED THIS WAS UNTRUE SINCE THE EGYPTIAN COMMANDER HAD ALREADY MOBILIZED 100 PEOPLE ON BOTH CANAL BANKS TO DO THE UNLOADING AND HAD DESIGNATED FOUR CROSSING POINTS FOR THIS PURPOSE. ISRAELIS HAD ALSO DECLINED TO HAVE UNEF REPLACE ISRAELI CHECKPOINT AT KILOMETER 101. IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO ESTABLISH THE UN CHECKPOINT AT 5:00 P.M.,

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SIILASVUO HAD RAISED UN FLAG ATOP UN TENT CLOSE TO

ISRAELI CHECKPOINT. ACCORDING TO SHAZLI'S INFORMATION, THERE ARE NOW ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN AND UN TENTS, EACH REPLETE WITH FLAGS, AT CHECKPOINT. BECAUSE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES, NOTHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT CHECKPOINTS BEYOND KILOMETER 101. ISRAELIS HAD INSISTED ON PRIOR RETURN OF POW'S.

IN RESPONSE TO SIILASVUO'S REPRESENTATIONS, YAARIV HAD SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO HIS SUPERIORS AFTER WHICH A NEW MEETING WILL BE FIXED. HE DID NOT THEREFORE KNOW WHEN NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD. SIX EGYPTIANS TRUCKS ARE REPORTEDLY WAITING AT KILOMETER 101 FOR PERMISSION TO GO THROUGH TO SUEZ. ISRAELI DELAY ATTRIBUTED TO ALLEGED DRAGGING THEIR HEELS ON UNLOADING TRUCKS ON WEST BANK.

3. GHORBAL CLAIMED ISRAELI CHECKPOINT IS ALSO PROHIBITING NEWSMEN FROM PROCEEDING BEYOND KILOMETER 101 PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

4. I TOLD GHORBAL THAT I UNDERSTOOD SOME DIFFICULTIES HAD ARisen, BUT URGED THAT THEY NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISRUPT TALKS. I HOPEd EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROCEDURAL DETAILS WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF BOTH SIDES, SO THAT ATTENTION IS NOT DIVERTED FROM SOME OF THE LARGER ISSUES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. GHORBAL AGREED, BUT COMPLAINED ISRAELIS MAKE THINGS UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT. MOREOVER, ISRAELIS HAVE REINFORCED UNITS AT NEARBY JEBEL ATAQA. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS ARE NOW AWAITING WORD THAT YAARIV IS AGAIN READY TO MEET AND THEY ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT MEETING.

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